

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 8, and 9. Claims 6 and 7 remain as previously pending.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring files over a computer network from a network server to a client computer system, the method comprising:

~~storing independently of information from the network server a public encryption key and a private encryption key in a client computer system;~~

~~receiving~~ sending a request for a data at a network server ~~file from said a client computer system to a network server;~~ and

~~in response to said request, (1)~~

~~checking a file attribute of the requested data using the network server to determine that whether said the requested file data is to be encrypted with said public encryption key; (2)~~

~~automatically retrieving using the network server said a public encryption key from said client computer system~~ when the data is not encrypted;

~~;(3) encrypting said the unencrypted data file with said public encryption key in said server automatically and without user intervention; and~~

~~sending said the encrypted data file to said client computer system.~~

2. Cancelled.

3. Cancelled

4. Cancelled.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of data storage and retrieval comprising:

~~automatically generating independently of information from the a network server a public encryption key and a corresponding private encryption key in a client computer system;~~

~~storing said public encryption key and said private encryption key in said client computer system;~~

~~requesting an unencrypted data file from the network server using said client computer system;~~

~~requesting sending~~ said public encryption key from said client computer system to said network server automatically and without user intervention; ~~wherein encrypting, in said network server, said unencrypted data file with said public encryption key is used to encrypt said unencrypted data file to create an encrypted data file;~~

~~routing receiving~~ said encrypted data file ~~to~~ at said client computer system; and

storing said encrypted data file on a storage medium in said client computer system.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, additionally comprising the step of associating an attribute with said file, said attribute indicating said file is unencrypted when stored on said network server.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said public key and said private key are based on a password entered by a user when logging on to said client computer system.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer readable data storage medium having stored thereon commands that are operative to cause a general purpose computer configured as a network server to perform a method of data retrieval comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a data file from a client computer system;

checking a file attribute of the requested data file;

~~in response thereto, based at least in part on the attribute,~~ automatically requesting a public key from said client computer system, the public key being originated independently of the network server;

automatically encrypting said data file using said public key; and

routing said encrypted data to said client computer system.

9. (Currently Amended) The data storage medium of Claim 8, wherein the ~~method additionally comprises the step of checking a file attribute indicating~~ whether said file is in unencrypted form prior to performing said encrypting.